GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1922
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2006
RESEARCH ON NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken by the Government to focus research on non-communicable diseases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The ICMR has been addressing various issues relating to non-communicable diseases, including their prevention and control through research activities. A statement is attached.

In addition number of research projects in Non-Communicable Diseases are also undertaken by other Premier Institutes under this Ministry.

STATEMENT

During 2004-06 the following major research activities have been undertaken at ICMR:

i) Cancer:

Projects to provide data on cancer incidence and its trends over time through cancer registration at 14 population based and 5 hospital based registries, development of Atlas of Cancer in India screening for common cancers, role of genetic polymorphism in drug metabolizing genes, immunity in oral cancer, common genetic changes in oral cancer and Indo-German Projects were undertaken.

ii) Cardiovascular Diseases:

A Jai Vigyan Mission Mode Project on Community control of RF/RHD is ongoing at four centers at Chandigarh, Vellore, Cochin and Indore. The epiedemiology and vaccine component of the project have been completed at PGIMER, Chandigarh and CMC, Vellore and the registry component and emm typing of the strains is going on and were recommended extension for one more year.

iii) Neurological Sciences:

Some of the ongoing projects are Maternal malnutrition and periods of vulnerability and reversibility in the developing brain, Haemostatic and molecular defects predisposing to acute non-embolic stroke in children and young Indians, Contribution of prothrombotic state to the etiology of ischaemic stroke in young people. Registry on Epilepsy in pregnant woman have been initiated at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi and SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram to study the risk of malformation in children born to women with epilepsy.

iv) Mental Health:

Pilot studies of task force projects on (1) mental health service needs and service delivery models in the disaster (earthquake) affected population in Gujarat, (2) suicide behaviour and (3) urban mental problems and their service needs, were initiated and pilot studies of the first two projects have been completed.

v) Diabetes Mellitus:

The ICMR has brought out the "Guidelines for the Management of Type II Diabetes" aimed at primary care settings. The ICMR proposes to initiate a task force project on "camel milk and diabetes" which will look at the multi-disciplinary approaches on the role of camel milk in diabetes. Steps for setting up the "registry for people with diabetes with young age at the Onset" have been initiated.

vi) Data Base on NCDs:

The ICMR has been developing a data base for communicable diseases on the selected NCD risk factors in males and females aged

between 15-64 residing in the urban, rural and pre-urban areas of the selected sites. Assessment of burden of non-communicable

diseases was undertaken by reviewing and analyzing all published material from our country related to the epidemiology of Ischemic heart diseases, stroke, diabetes, cancers, hypertension and tobacco usage. Using DISMOD package analysis, prevalence rates, DALYs (Disability adjusted life years) and YLLs (Years of life lost) for these diseases were estimated.

vii) Environmental Health:

The Indo-US Joint Statement on Environments and Occupational Health was signed to facilitate collaboration between the two countries in health programmes, including identification, monitoring and prevention of diseases caused by environmental and occupational factors.

viii) Disability:

A multi-centric project on "Prevention of Disability among pre-school children" has been completed.